

Remarks/Arguments:

The pending claims are 1-26. Claims 12-16, 18, 20, and 21 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 19-26 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4, 7-10 have been amended. No new matter is introduced therein.

Formal drawings are submitted herewith.

Objections to the drawings

The drawings have been objected to in paragraph 2 of the Office Action.

The drawings have been objected to based upon the Office Action's contention that they do not show "the connector has an adjustable length" as recited in claim 7. As amended, claim 7 now recites, in part, that "the connector has a length selected to position a section of the object at the remote center of rotation." This amendment is supported by page 24, lines 14-17 of the specification. In view of the amendment, Applicant requests that the objection to the drawings based upon claim 7 be withdrawn.

The drawings have also been objected to based upon the contention that they do not show the "object" recited in claims 22 and 25. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 22, as amended, recites, in part, "the remote center of rotation is located on a surface of the object." This feature is shown, at least in Fig. 16. In Fig. 16, optical fiber 200 is an object. The tip 204 of optical fiber 200 has a surface. The center of the surface of tip 204 is at the remote center of rotation 210. Therefore, the remote center of rotation 210 is located on the surface of tip 204 of optical fiber/object 200. (Page 25, lines 9-14) Since at least Fig. 16 shows the "object" recited in claim 22, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings based upon the recitations in claim 22.

Claim 25 recites, in part, "the section of the object is in a plane that rotates about the remote center of rotation responsive to the movement of the movable part." These features are shown, at least, in Fig. 17. In Fig. 17, mirror 220 is an object. The surface of mirror 220 defines a plane 224. The center of the surface and, therefore, the center of plane 224, is at a remote center of rotation 126. (page 26, lines 20-24). Mirror surface/plane 224 rotates about remote center of rotation 226. Since at least Fig. 17 shows the "object" recited in claim 25, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection to the drawings based upon the recitations in claim 25.

Claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Paragraph 4 of the Office Action contains a typographical error inadvertently stating that claim 65 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

With respect to the rejection stated in paragraph 4a, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to his representative during a telephone interview on June 8, 2007 during which the Examiner explained that the rejection pertains to each independent claim that recites "a remote center." Based upon the helpful suggestion in paragraph 4a of the Office Action, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "a remote center of rotation outside a volume occupied by the system." This recitation is supported by page 1, lines 6-9 of the specification.

In paragraph 4b, the Office Action contends that claim 7 is not clear. Claim 7 has been amended to recite "the connector has a length selected to position a section of the object at the remote center of rotation." This amendment is supported by page 24, lines 14-17 of the specification.

In paragraph 4c, the Office Action contends that the phrase "the plurality of flexures" lacks proper antecedent basis. Claim 9 has been amended to clarify antecedent basis.

In paragraph 4d, the Office Action contends that the figures do not illustrate the "object" recited in claim 22. As shown above, at least Figs. 16 and 17 illustrate exemplary objects. Claim 22 has been amended to clarify the term "surface."

In paragraph 4d, the Office Action contends that the figures do not illustrate "the object" recited in claim 25. As shown above, at least Figs. 16 and 17 illustrate exemplary objects.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 112 rejections.

Allowable claims

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the statement in paragraph 8 of the Office Action that claims 3, 4, 8, 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the § 112 rejections. In view of the amendments to the claims and the explanations of the figures above, Applicant contends that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Since claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 3, claims 1 (as amended), 2, 4-7, and 9 are now allowable. Claim 3 has been canceled and claim 4 has been amended to depend from amended claim 1.

Claims 8 and 10 have each been rewritten in independent form and are thus allowable. In addition, since claims 11-18 depend from allowable claim 10, they are also allowable.

Substantive claim rejections

Paragraph 6 of the Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Mayenberger (U.S. Patent No. 6,290,196). Paragraph 7 of the Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 19, 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by

Appln. No.: 10/728,472
Amendment Dated July 26, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated June 1, 2007

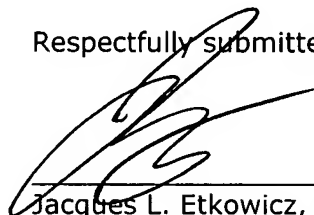
RPI-124US

Edelstein (U.S. Patent No. 4,088,396). These rejections are moot in view of the amendments to the claims recited above and in view of the cancellation of claims 19-26.

Conclusion

Claims 1, 2, 4-18 are in condition for allowance and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacques L. Etkowicz, Reg. No. 41,738
Stanley Weinberg, Reg. No. 25,276
Attorneys for Applicants

JLE/SW/dhm

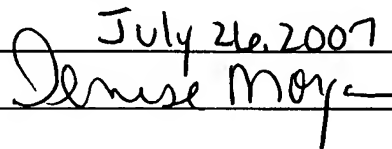
Encls: Drawing Sheets (10 pages)

Dated: July 26, 2007

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P.O. Box 980 Valley Forge, PA 19482 (610) 407-0700
<input type="checkbox"/> P.O. Box 1596 Wilmington, DE 19899 (302) 778-2500

The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. **18-0350** for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

July 26, 2007


Appln..No.: 10/728,472
Amendment Dated July 26, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated June 1, 2007

RPI-124US

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings replace the original sheets.

Attachment